



US Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## (Supplemental – 20 day notice)

Issue Date: October 31, 2005  
Comment Deadline: November 21, 2005  
Corps Action ID #: 200020569

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specific plans and location information are described below and overall plans showing the location of the proposed construction and impact sites are attached. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at [www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands).

**Applicant:** North Carolina Department Of Transportation, Division Of Highways  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548

### Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

### Project

Widening of SR 1158 (Airport Road) (T.I.P. No. U-3823), including replacement of the existing Bloomery Swamp box culvert crossing with a new bridge, temporary causeways for construction access in Bloomery Swamp, temporary wetland and stream dewatering, relocation of a sewer utility line, and extension of existing culvert crossings of two unnamed tributaries.

### Location

SR 1158 (Airport Boulevard), crossing Bloomery Swamp and two unnamed tributaries, and adjacent wetlands, from NC 42 to US 264A, west of Wilson, in Wilson County, North Carolina, 35.740° N Latitude, 77.976° W Longitude.

### Existing Site Conditions

Existing Airport Boulevard passes farmland, a wooded stream corridor, a developed stream corridor, and the wooded floodplain of Bloomery Swamp. Several older houses are situated along the southern half of Airport Boulevard, and Wilson Christian Academy is located on the east side of Airport Boulevard at Merck Road (SR 1157). A residential

development has recently been constructed just east of Airport Boulevard, on the north side of Bloomery Swamp, and the Norfolk Southern Railroad crosses Airport Boulevard just north of that development. Commercial development is present along the US 264A corridor at the north end of the project.

The proposed project impacts wetland habitats consisting of typical upper coastal plain riverine bottomland hardwood forest and swamp, adjacent to Bloomery Swamp, and palustrine wetlands adjacent to the tributaries. The main flow channel of Bloomery Swamp, in the area that it is impacted by the project, is approximately 20 feet wide and several feet deep. The two impacted tributaries are typical perennial upper coastal plain headwater streams, less than three feet in width.

### **Applicant's Stated Purpose**

The purpose of the work is to improve capacity and highway safety along this section of Airport Boulevard.

### **Background**

The Corps of Engineers issued an initial public notice for this project on May 7, 2003. That public notice described six construction alternatives for the crossing of Bloomery Swamp to be considered. Alternative 1 proposed extension of the existing 5-barrel box culvert over Bloomery Swamp, and the addition of five equalizer pipes through the existing causeway in the floodplain. Alternatives 3 and 5 proposed replacing the culverts with 200 and 475-foot long bridges, respectively. Alternatives 1, 3 and 5 proposed use of shoulder drains along the roadway. Alternatives 2, 4 and 6 differed from 1, 3 and 5 only in that 2, 4 and 6 proposed use of curb and gutter drainage along the roadway. An interagency team reviewing the project concurred that the least environmentally-damaging, preferred alternative is Alternative 4, with a 200-foot long bridge, and curb and gutter drainage. NCDOT has now applied for a permit for Alternative 4.

### **Project Description**

NCDOT plans to widen a 2-mile long section of SR 1158 (Airport Road) (T.I.P. No. U-3823), from two lanes to a four and five lane facility. Only four lanes of roadway will be constructed in the vicinity of the Bloomery Swamp crossing, to minimize impacts to wetlands. A "sealed crossing" will be installed at the railroad crossing north of Bloomery Swamp, including gates, signal flashers, and a concrete barrier in the median. Several new turn lanes are also proposed. The project involves replacement of the existing Bloomery Swamp culvert crossing with a new bridge, temporary causeways for construction access in Bloomery Swamp, temporary wetland and stream dewatering, relocation of a sewer utility line, and extension of existing culvert crossings of two unnamed tributaries. The new permanent fill for the widened roadway will be on the east side in the vicinity of the Bloomery Swamp crossing, to reduce impacts to the higher quality wetlands on the west side. The widened roadway and utility relocation will permanently impact 0.90 acre of riverine wetlands and 89 linear feet of the unnamed

tributaries. The project will temporarily impact a total of 0.15 acre of wetlands, and 0.07 acre of surface waters at Bloomery Swamp and the tributaries, for access causeways and dewatering.

NCDOT is proposing to use the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) to provide the necessary compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable permanent wetland and stream losses associated with this project.

### **Other Required Authorizations**

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice in the NCDWQ Central Office in Raleigh serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, Transportation Permitting Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Mr. John Hennessy by November 14, 2005.

### **Cultural Resources**

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

### **Endangered Species**

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat, other than the Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*). The US Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with a determination that the project may affect, but will not adversely affect the smooth coneflower and the Michaux's sumac, by letter dated December 23, 2003, based on the presence of habitat for both species, but no individuals found in NCDOT plant surveys.

## **Evaluation**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

## **Commenting Information**

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

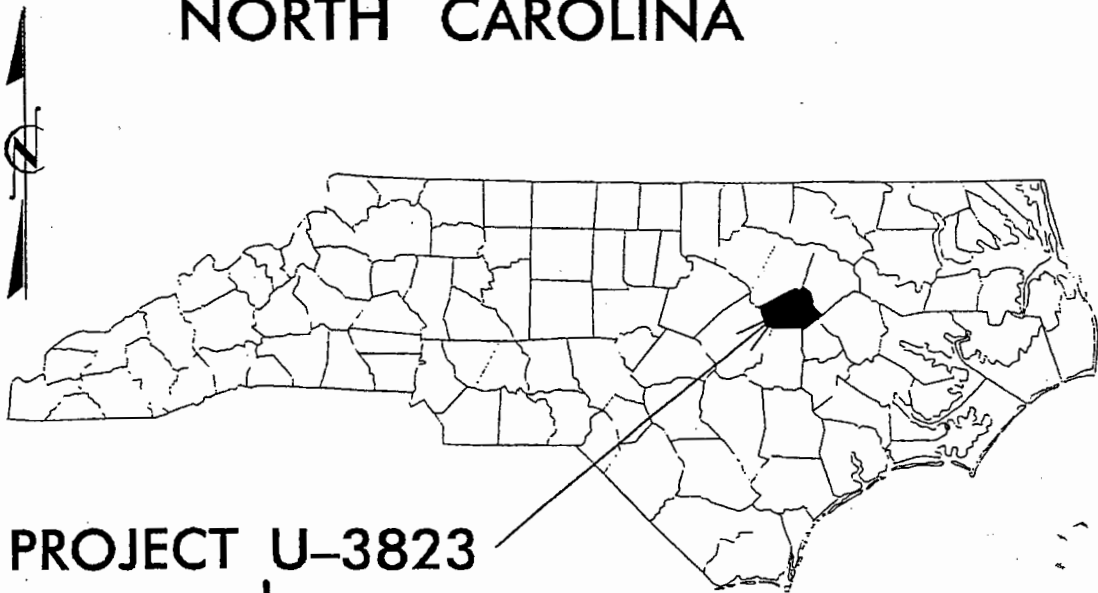
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, November 21, 2005. Comments should be submitted to:

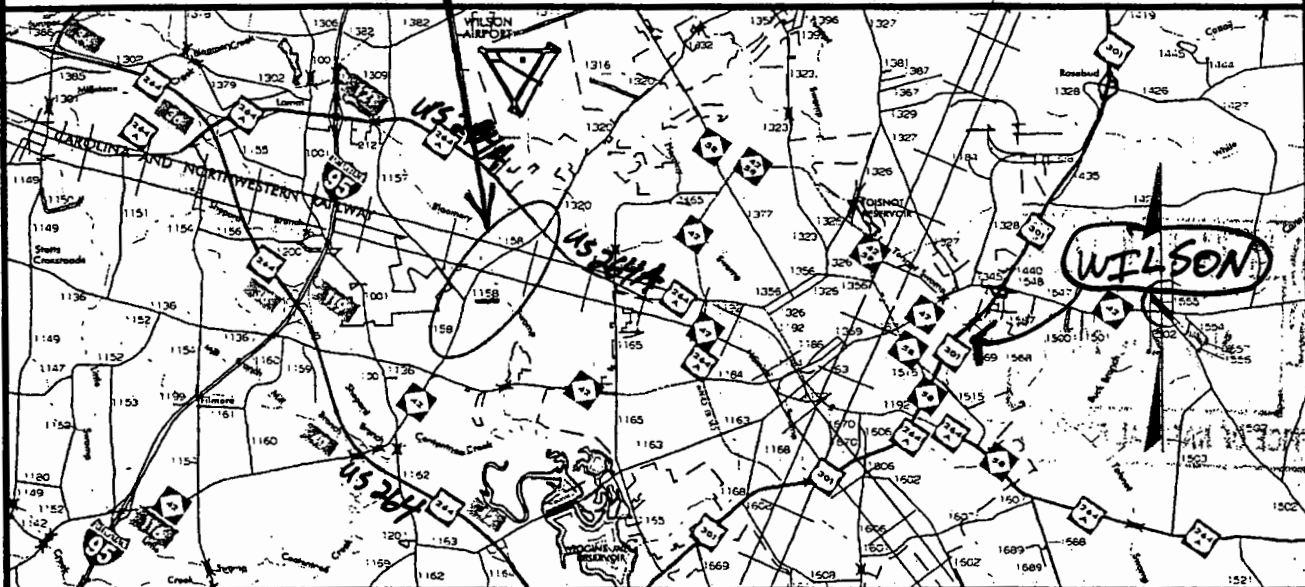
Eric Alsmeyer  
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
Raleigh Regulatory Field Office  
6508 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 120  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615-6814  
Telephone (919) 876-8441

# WETLAND DRAWINGS

## NORTH CAROLINA



PROJECT U-3823

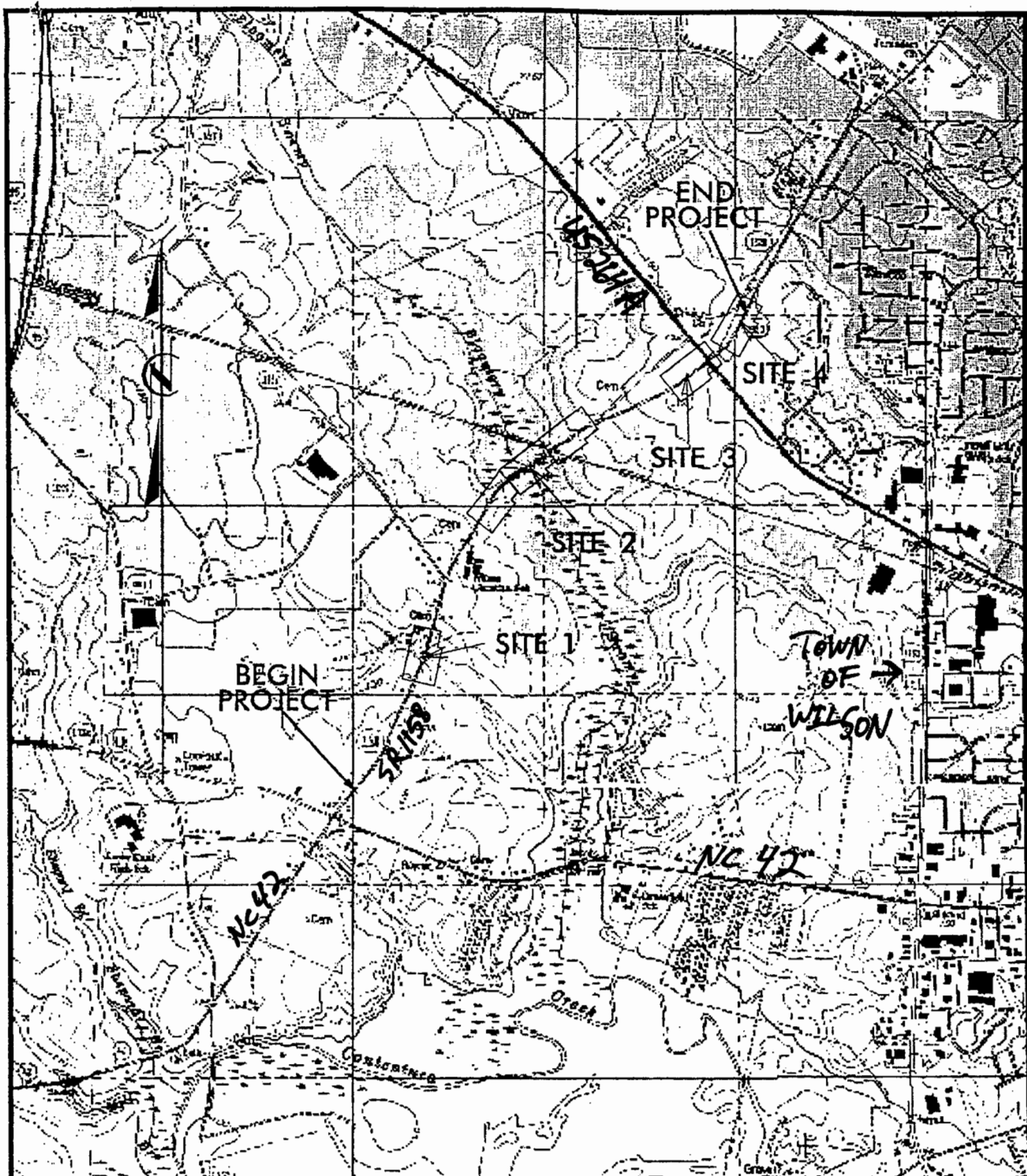


VICINITY  
MAP

N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
WILSON COUNTY  
U-3823

SR 1158 (AIRPORT BLVD.) FROM  
EAST OF NC 42 TO EAST  
OF US 264-A

DATE: JUNE 2005  
SHEET 1 OF 3



## VICINITY MAP

N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
WILSON COUNTY  
U-3823  
SR 1158 (AIRPORT BLVD.) FROM  
EAST OF NC 42 TO EAST  
OF US 264-A  
DATE: JUNE 2005  
SHEET 2 OF 3

## WETLAND PERMIT IMPACT SUMMARY

Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS						SURFACE WATER IMPACTS			
			Permanent Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Excavation in Wetlands (ac)	Mechanized Clearing in Wetlands (ac)	Temp. Impacts (ac)	Hand Clearing in Wetlands (ac)	Permanent Fill in SW (ac)	Temp. Fill in SW (ac)	Existing Channel Impacts Permanent (ft)	Natural Stream Design (ft)
1	44+95-45+55 -L-	2 @ 60" RCP	0.019	0.017	0.021	0.017			0.028		82	
2	77+25-91+55 -L-	2@50',1@55',1@50' 21" PRESTRESSED CORED SLAB O.A.L. 205'	0.547	0.118	0.001	0.299				0.066		
3	114+90-115.20 -L-			0.010					0.001		7	
4	126+79 -L-	18" RCP										
TOTAL S:			0.566	0.145	0.022	0.316			0.029	0.066	89	

SITE 2 CONTAINS 0.235 ACRE OF PERMANENT WETLAND IMPACT FOR UTILITY RELOCATION  
SITE 2 CONTAINS 0.06 ACRES OF SHADING

AN ADDITIONAL 0.001 ACRE OF PERMANENT FILL IN SURFACE WATER WILL OCCUR AT SITE 2 AS A RESULT OF A BRIDGE BENT.

N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
WILSON COUNTY  
U-3823  
SR 1158 (AIRPORT BLVD.) FROM  
EAST OF NC 42 TO EAST  
OF US 264-A  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2005  
SHEET 3 OF 3